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The Meaning of National Parks

By JOHN C. MERRIAM

*Chairman of the Committee appointed by Secretary Wilbur in June to Advise the Director
of the National Parks Service on matters pertinent to the Educational
Policy and Development of National Parks*

REGARDLESS of the state of opinion as to essential qualities of National Parks, no one doubts that this system includes a considerable group of the outstanding natural wonders of America. Question is never raised concerning the value of the Grand Canyon, Zion, Yosemite, Glacier Park, or Sequoia as preeminent examples of inspiring, informing, and rejuvenating influences in nature.

The elements of primary interest in these parks are of many types. They include some of the greatest known illustrations of magnitude, power, beauty, and antiquity. We know that their influence removes us for the moment from the wearing routine of the commonplace, and develops an attitude of mind favorable to enjoyment of thought on our greater personal problems. No one who stands in the presence of the inspiring spectacle of Grand Canyon, or the beauty of Zion, or in the midst of the life of past ages at Sequoia, can avoid an opening of the mind both to wider interest in the meaning of nature and to its deeper appreciation.

In another aspect these parks represent fully primitive nature controlled only by the conditions which produced the world as we have found it. Man's works may be great and beautiful, but they are built upon what creation furnished. There is always intense interest in finding the materials of nature and the

expression of its modes of operation in unmodified form. In this contact with the fully primitive we recognize also a peculiar freedom for appreciation and enjoyment of nature.

Visitors to National Parks commonly come with a desire for rest and freedom and the wish to learn. Few, if any, are without a definite measure of interest in knowing something of the unusual and inspiring things found there. In general the spirit is one of real inquiry. It is also clear that the visitor wishes to see and learn for himself, or through his own observation.

Although the stories told by National Parks are

almost infinite in number, the distinction between these parks and other areas lies in the presence of features of special interest which attract the multitude of intelligent visitors. With increasing complexity of the problems involved in development of the parks, it is to be expected that, from time to time, attention will shift from one important objective to another, or may even direct itself for the moment to elements not involved in the program upon which the system really rests. It is easy to see that a feature which has to do solely with amusement, or another concerning the comforts of life, might become a lure to numerous visitors whose interest would initially have little relation to the main objectives of the park.

THE COMMITTEE PERSONNEL

THE Advisory Committee to the National Parks Service consists of the following:

John C. Merriam, President of the Carnegie Institution of Washington and Chairman of the National Parks Association's Advisory Board on Educational and Inspirational Use of National Parks, chairman

Wallace W. Atwood, President of Clark University,

Isaiah Bowman, Director of the American Geographical Association,

Herman C. Bumpus, Chairman of the Committee on Outdoor Education of the American Association of Museums,

Vernon Kellogg, Secretary of the National Research Council,

Frank A. Oastler of the Committee on Conservation of the Camp Fire Club of America, and Clark Wissler, Curator of Anthropology in the American Museum of Natural History.

Dr. Merriam's statement appeared in the August number of *American Forests and Forest Life* and is reproduced here by permission.

HERBERT HOOVER ON NATIONAL PARKS

THE movement to foster public parks for human outdoor life and conservation of wild life is one of our most beneficent public endeavors. And in it we need more action by the individual states.

We need also a distinction between the province and responsibilities of the States and the Federal Government.

My own thought is that the National Parks—the parks within the responsibility of the Federal Government—should be those of outstanding scientific and spiritual appeal, those that are unique in their stimulation and inspiration.

From his famous Address on Fishing to the National Conference on Outdoor Recreation, May, 1926.

Over a wide range of subjects in nature the National Parks preserve for us illustrations of outstanding interest and clearness of expression. In each instance a great story presents itself in a striking way. In each case the story makes its immediate appeal through the inspiring influence of magnitude, or power, or beauty, and brings the visitor to question as to the cause. Nature unaided is here a great teacher, and the lessons are of unsurpassed impressiveness. But beyond the easy reach of interpretation for the untrained visitor lies a region of tremendous interest in appreciation of nature, for which the experience and guidance of trained and able men may help the visitor to a widened range of observation and understanding. In development of the National Parks system, full use and enjoyment depend upon the possibility of pointing out and interpreting the greater features which each Park represents.

It is essential that every visitor know the major opportunities of his experience there, and how they may be used to best advantage. There should be full appreciation of the fact that adequate definition of these features will tax our resources of knowledge and expression. While one may sense the presence of great things, it is difficult to define or to describe them. As we stand in awe before the abyss at Grand Canyon, the geologist, the biologist, and student of genesis of scenery describe with measured exactness the events it represents, but in the end we find ourselves still struggling for expression of the essence of this greatness. Realization that complete definition is not attained does not relieve us of responsibility for making available to the eager ones something of what has been learned. We know that the wider the range of observation and of thought on the part of the visitor, the greater the opportunity for what Henry van Dyke has described as being lifted up "through wonder into joy."

The National Chamber of Commerce Distinguishes Between National and State Responsibilities

The National Chamber of Commerce passed the following resolution on May 13, 1926:

"The Chamber of Commerce of the United States has earlier expressed its interest in the creation of national parks. It believes the primary responsibility of the federal government in the establishment or maintenance of national parks is to preserve those features of our landscape where, in sufficiently large areas, the scenery is so unusually beautiful and is so characteristic of its kind, and where consequently it has so great an educational or other value, that it may be considered a heritage of the whole nation rather than a recreational facility for the inhabitants of adjacent territory.

"The primary responsibility for supplying recreational facilities for the people of states and municipalities lies with the states and municipalities themselves."

Official Defenders of the Standards

Presidents of the United States from Woodrow Wilson, inclusive, down have defended in act or speech the integrity of the National Park System from the time the standards were first endangered by bills in Congress attacking them.

All the Secretaries of the Interior, also, from Franklin K. Lane, inclusive, down, except only Secretary Fall, have upheld its standards. Secretary Fall attempted to create a National Park below standard in his own State, but failed against an uprising of the people.

NATIONAL PARK STANDARDS

As defined in 1918 by

FRANKLIN K. LANE

*President Woodrow Wilson's first Secretary
of the Interior*

IN studying new park projects," Secretary of the Interior Franklin K. Lane wrote Director Stephen T. Mather of the National Park Service, May 13, 1918, "you should seek to find scenery of supreme and distinct quality, or some natural feature so extraordinary or unique as to be of national interest and importance. You should seek distinguished examples of typical forms of world architecture. * * * The National Parks System as now constituted should not be lowered in standard, dignity and prestige by the inclusion of areas which express in less than the highest terms the particular class or kind of exhibit which they represent."

Historical Basis of National Park Standards

By ROBERT STERLING YARD

Executive Secretary of the National Parks Association

WITHIN the first two years of the first National Parks Administration, which began under Stephen T. Mather in 1915, standards were identified and formulated, educational promotion planned and started, policy established and the bureau created. The period is unique in government history. It is well to commit the story to writing while fresh in memory, for the official facts of the record carry little understanding of personalities, causes and conditions and none of its flavor.

Since 1905, when W. B. Acker of the Interior Department, returning from the first official survey of National Parks, discussed the advisability of a bureau with Assistant Secretary Ryan, the subject was never still. The Sierra Club promptly took it up unofficially, and in 1910 appointed a special promotion committee. Later the same year, Secretary of the Interior Ballenger advised a bureau in his annual report, and at a conference of park superintendents, concessioners and others in Yellowstone in September, 1911, Henry S. Graves, chief of the Forest Service, R. B. Marshall, chief geographer of the Geological Survey, and Frederic Law Olmsted all advocated it. In December President Taft, inspired thereto by the American Civic Association, urged a bureau bill upon Congress, which did not pass. In October, 1912, at a National Park conference in Yosemite, the project was further advanced.

Keen as many were for a government bureau, neither of these conferences, nor any prominent advocate, had essayed to differentiate National Parks from other types of reservations, nor to distinguish special uses. On the contrary, in the 1912 conference, both R. B. Marshall and J. Horace McFarland favored lumbering mature forests and grazing as in National Forests. It is significant of claims made today that the word "recreation" seldom if at all appears in the stenographic reports of these conferences. During all this period, one lone voice only, that of Frederic Law Olmsted in 1911, asked for definition of National Parks, but without response. So the situation rested.

"I've taken on a big job for the government and want your help," Mather said to me in February, 1915. We were dining in a New York City hotel where he had summoned me by wire to meet him. With the Pacific expositions coming, he explained, Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior under Wilson, his classmate in the University of California, had asked him to make Yosemite ready for the crowds.

"Before accepting," Mather continued, "I spent a month with him in Washington looking over the chances. I have been a member of the Sierra Club for years, and had some pretty definite ideas of what park administration ought to be. I knew Yosemite through and through, had spent summers on the trails of the high Sierra, and had climbed Mount Rainier. I had told him I would do his job provided he would let me get the National Parks all together into a businesslike system under a bureau of its own. He told me that it would be all right with him and to go ahead. I am Assistant to the Secretary, which sounds big but isn't. My big trouble will be to get appropriations, and what I want you to do is to work up a nationwide publicity campaign that will get the people behind the Parks. That will loosen up Congress."

That's how Mather and I got into it. Horace M. Albright was already there. Having graduated with honors from the University of California and its Law School, he was observing the operations of mining law in government from the vantage ground of a year's position in the Interior Department preliminary to entering a San Francisco law office.

"Say, Frank," Mather had said to Lane before he started in, "they do things so differently in government than business that I'll probably get myself in jail in a week unless you give me a guardian."

"I've got a young fellow here recently out of law school who is pretty good," Lane replied. "He'll be your legal assistant and keep you out of trouble."

Thus began a close association which lasted during Mather's continuance in office. During Albright's succeeding promotions as assistant director, Super-

STANDARDS, SAYS WILBUR, MUST BE MAINTAINED

"**O**UR great national parks system," says Secretary of the Interior Ray Lyman Wilbur, "is primarily of value to the country because of the permanent inspirational and educational values inherent in varying degrees in the individual members.

"The standard for the creation of a national park is a high one and it must be maintained by the exclusion of scenic areas possessing merely local appeal and not having the essential element of national interest.

"The preservation of their natural wilderness state is vital, so that the national parks may continue to serve their great purpose in the education, health and enjoyment of the people."

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION for the ADVANCEMENT of SCIENCE

Resolution, December, 1925

"RESOLVED, That the American Association for the Advancement of Science recognizes the National Parks as the means of preserving unique representations of the primitive and majestic in nature, and wishes to record its protests against additions to the National Park System, or change in policy, which may tend to lessen in fact or in public estimation their present high value as natural museums, their complete conservation from industrial uses, and their effectiveness as a national education institution."

intendent of Yellowstone National Park, and field director, he remained Mather's close personal adviser. From the start Mather planned that Albright should succeed him.

The Secretary set apart a small staff, several borrowed from other bureaus, and the work started. We began in the old Patent Office at F and Ninth Streets, which then housed the Secretary and his staff, but there was no room for me. Information headquarters were established in the Bureau of Mines, then a block away on E Street, from which the "National Parks Portfolio" and "Glimpses of Our National Parks," later supplemented with a news service, presently started a tidal wave of newspaper and magazine publicity that in time passed far beyond all control, reacting in abundant, ever-increasing appropriations.

The first several years of this first separate parks administration must have, some day, a more particular treatment than the present time and occasion permit. They were to be years of momentous construction, but we did not know it. Nor could any one have known that what a few years later was called the Outdoor Recreation Age, then about to be born unrecognized, already was fitting us into the shaping of its own ends, and that a group of National Parks which comparatively few till then even knew existed was to become the turning point of a swift evolution affecting national life in a thousand ways.

To our prejudging, intensely centered minds, the National Park publicity that followed the free distribution of 275,000 copies of the National Parks Portfolio represented solely the people's joy in discovering the existence of so noble a possession as our National Parks system. It required the perspective of ten years of after development to show us what had actually happened, namely, that we had been advertising superfascinating travel goals to several million potential motor tourists impatient for the long road; for motor touring was then in its very beginning, awaiting only inspiring objectives and leadership. I recall Mather urging

Desmond, the new Yosemite concessioner, to build a hotel in the Valley. Desmond couldn't see where the patronage would come from to make the investment profitable.

"Why, look at those cars!" Mather cried. "There must be two hundred of them. Where's your imagination? Some day there'll be a thousand."

"Maybe," said Desmond skeptically. (131,689 cars visited Yosemite in 1928.)

In spite of Mather's optimism, it did not seem specially significant to us in the years immediately following that nearly all the enormous increase of park visitors came by motor, nor did we know till long afterwards that travel very much greater in proportion was also swamping the National Forests. For years many of us believed, as some continue to do, that the touring craze which since has changed the face of America was caused by the National Parks alone.

As I look back at this little group which was accepting a public charge with so much greater solemnity than it had been offered them, and was about to become the determining agency in a major movement of civilization whose very existence it did not suspect, I have a vivid resurgence of the sense of romance which impressed us all during these beginnings and beyond any question flavored the public presentment. To these men, undoubtedly, if not to many others concerned with the remarkable National Park furor which followed fast, this was high adventure.

With such a psychic setting, almost from the start Mather's striking personality centered and fed the en-

STEPHEN T. MATHER ON THE STANDARDS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

"THE National Park System of the United States is made up of areas of incomparable scenic grandeur. Each of the major national parks was selected for parkhood because of some distinctive feature, either scenic or prehistoric, which is of national importance and interest. Under the policy governing the establishment of national parks, only one area of a particular type is considered for inclusion in the system, and each area selected must represent the highest example of its particular type.

"Areas whose principal qualification is adaptability for recreational uses are not, of course, of national park caliber.

"Proposed parks are measured by the standards set by the major national parks of the system; hence the requirements are exacting. As long as these standards shall prevail there is no danger of too many national parks being established, or of the excellence of the present system being lowered."

thusiasm of multitudes. He was pictured, written up, dined and feted. His appearances were applauded and his words were treasured and quoted. His journeys criss-crossing the country were blazed with newspaper headlines and punctuated with interviews. Many who did not know then the sources of his inspiration, looked upon him as a comer in politics. To a group of prominent party men who regretted that Lane's birth outside this country prevented his nomination for the presidency, he said laughingly:

"Gentlemen, if I were eligible for the presidency and you were a committee to offer me the great honor of a nomination, I would reply; 'I accept upon the one condition that Steve Mather shall be my publicity manager. Let me introduce him.'"

Lane meant it. To this great advertising genius the little National Park Bureau was the most useful of all his bureaus. Mather could have from him what he chose. But I'm ahead of my story.

At the very beginning arose among us the question: What are National Parks anyway? Everyone knew generally and no one knew specifically. Albright, the lawyer, searched law book and records in vain for a definition. Mather and I asked officials, members of Congress, park-makers in the West, seers generally wherever found. A dozen offered-definitions differed radically.

In the absence of legal definition we decided finally to adopt the works of Congress from the beginning as the expression of its purpose. The Parks themselves must furnish the definition. During the forty-four years since making the first National Park, Yellowstone, Congress had created fifteen in all, three of which were so small and absurdly lacking in quality as plainly to be careless creations of politics. Excluding these, we found that National Parks were areas of unmodified natural conditions, each the finest of its type in the country, preserved forever as a system from all industrial uses; and this definition became our guide. Under it, the system was accepted everywhere as the expression of the genius of the country and of the unwritten but nevertheless recorded will of Congress. Yet no searching of the records since reveals that we committed this definition formally to writing. I do not know why we made the same omission that Congress had made. Probably because this definition was to us self-evident and no one in or out of Congress raised the least objection to it. On the contrary, greeted with some enthusiasm at the outset, it has since been accepted by the common consent of the people and Congress. Secretary Lane always emphasized the necessity to choose for National Parks only areas of superlative scenery. He also had the vision to see educational values, which he said in his 1917 report "would be specially emphasized in publications."

Mather began work in January, 1915, and in March held a National Park conference in Berkeley, California. It was on the way to this conference that I joined the group. On the park tour which Mather and I made

A NATIONAL PARK CREED

BY JOHN C. MERRIAM

President Carnegie Institution of Washington

*Chairman National Parks Association's
Advisory Board on Educational and
Inspirational Use of National Parks*

WHILE the National Parks serve in an important sense as recreation areas, their primary uses extend far into that fundamental education which concerns real appreciation of nature. Here beauty in its truest sense receives expression and exerts its influence along with recreation and formal education. To me the parks are not merely places to rest and exercise and learn. They are regions where one looks through the veil to meet the realities of nature and of the unfathomable power behind it.

I CANNOT say what worship really is—nor am I sure that others will do better—but often in the parks, I remember Bryant's lines, "Why should we, in the world's riper years, neglect God's ancient sanctuaries, and adore only among the crowd, and under roofs that our frail hands have raised?" National Parks represent opportunities for worship through which one comes to understand more fully certain of the attributes of nature and its Creator. They are not objects to be worshipped, but they are altars over which we may worship.

at its close was born the idea and purpose of utilizing for popular education the Story of Creation written in the rocks in letters of size so great and meaning so plain that none could fail to comprehend. It was my first seeing stupendous natural spectacles, and it seemed to me well worth a plain man's life to promote successfully the use of such an opportunity by the scientists and educators of the country. To these suggestions Mather was alive, and later entitled me "chief of the educational section"—the "section" consisting of one able secretary.

Another idea born during this eventful journey found fulfillment four years later in the creation of the National Parks Association. "With you working outside the government," Mather said, "and with me working inside, together we ought to make the National Park system very useful to the country."

To do something useful to the country was the always conscious motive of this boyish, joyous, untiring, up-building man who, for all his modesty, never failed to exhort to patriotic endeavor, or to rebuke for what he conceived lack of full public duty, even the most exalted. Seeing personal or political advantage placed above the public due seldom failed to call him to his feet. To one who praised him fulsomely for large expenditure of his own money, he said chidingly: "I got my money out of the soil of the country (he mined and marketed borax) so why should I be praised for putting a little of it back? That's only decent acknowledgment."

He conceived his friends as generous, public-spirited, patriotic and high-minded as himself. Nearly all his mistakes lay in his assumption that the mindedness and motives of all men who seemed fine were identical with his own. Thus he was not infrequently the victim of politicians in business and public life. There were few half-tones in Mather's conceptions of character. Men were either high-minded or beyond the pale. But for those beyond the pale his charity conceived that there was always hope.

A man so far from the common pattern was bound to be misunderstood in any large highly organized service like the national government, especially as he undervalued the importance of organization. Add an inborn informality which ignored social and official distinctions as if they did not exist, treating princes, presidents, clerks and chateaus with identical courtesy, assuming that all men understood him as he thought he understood them, and it is not difficult to to comprehend how the misunderstandings were certain to have come about which, for several unhappy years, divided the workers, rank and file, of the National Park and National Forest Services.

The first annual report of the new park administration in 1916 ranked National Park purposes as "the stimulation of national patriotism" and "the fostering of knowledge and health." It was the beginning of the "see America first" promotion, and the report stressed National Parks, as a factor in holding travel at home, but cautioned that "the fostering of recreation purely as such is more properly the function of the city, county and state parks, and there should be a clear distinction between the character of these and National Parks."

This article, which is reproduced here by permission of American Forests and Forest Life, where it appeared last August substantially as here offered but under the title of "Organizing the National Parks," covers too briefly a period of almost creative importance. The System's often thrilling later adventures in large part occasioned by and often affecting the automobile's conquest of America, will be the subject of later papers.

TO ENLIST FOR THE WAR

and do your part in this important service of the country, mail your name and address to the Treasurer, 1512 H Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., enclosing your check for first year's dues. You will receive the *National Parks Bulletin* and other publications of the Association, and will soon find your own working place in the ranks of service.

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Sustaining Membership.....\$25.00

Concerning National Parks

THE National Parks System described on the opposite page was not the result of prevision, but a development of the instinct to preserve the extraordinary and supremely beautiful in a land of amazing beauty. The creators of Yellowstone had no idea that they were starting a program—least of all the finest and most diversified scenic system that the world was ever to know. Congress referred the bill to the Interior Department for study and followed its advice.

At that time, and eighteen years later when Yosemite, Sequoia and General Grant were set apart from the same impulse, following in their making the identical government procedure, little was known of the vast wilderness between, which later was to yield other parks so magnificent. But in 1890, with four national parks instead of one, it was evident that a System was in the building, and successive Congresses and Administrations began to choose carefully, selecting the noblest typical landscapes combined with primitive natural conditions that the country had to offer.

That several diminutive creations of state pride, all combined less than forty square miles in area, crept in before the idea fairly crystallized was not surprising. A little city park of bubbling mineral springs, a city-side group of hot springs with an ancient tradition of cures, a limestone cave through whose small vent the wind whistled mysteriously, a lake in a dry country on whose borders Indians had once fought—the wonder is that many more manifest blunders were not perpetrated in the early making. Some day public opinion will dictate the transfer of these to more appropriate classifications. The future of all inter-related unindustrial public lands is shaping rapidly.

While the activities of material progress remained in the valleys miles from our national parks, building to plan met no opposition, but when grazing and water power sought high altitudes, business attacked the System's standards in Congress and had to be beaten off by militant expressions of public protest. And when the automobile had meshed the surface of America with fine hard roads, eastern regions unattractive to travel, believing that it was national parks which sent eastern motorists west by the million, demanded national parks of their own, irrespective of standard.

Government statistics of national park travel, because unanalyzed and unexplained, are in large part responsible for these raids. As a matter of fact, much the most of all national park patronage consists of local people coming often and registered as new visitors whenever they enter. They add nothing to the income of the State. Even the much smaller proportion of pocketbooks from other states is exaggerated by the registration of their owners afresh at every national park they run in and out of while touring. Until government totals explain themselves, the promotion of unfit eastern national park projects will continue under the spur of grossly exaggerated ideas of local profit.

National Parks System at a Glance

Contains twenty-one parks with a total area of 12,118 square miles. Together, they combine scenic features of greater magnificence and wider variety than are comfortably accessible in all the rest of the world combined, constituting our National Gallery of Scenic Masterpieces.

National parks in order of creation	Location	Areas in square miles	Distinctive characteristics
Yellowstone..... 1872	Northwestern Wyoming.....	3,426	The world's most spectacular volcanic exhibit—More geysers than in all rest of world together—Boiling springs—Mud volcanos—Petrified forests—Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, remarkable for gorgeous coloring—Large lakes—Many large streams and waterfalls—Vast wilderness, one of the greatest wild bird and animal preserves in world.
Sequoia..... 1890	Middle eastern California.....	604	The Big Tree National Park—The Giant Forest alone contains hundreds of sequoias over 10 feet in diameter, and many 25 feet in diameter—Sugar pines, white fir, yellow pine and incense cedar all attain their greatest development—Loftiest region of High Sierra including Mount Whitney.
Yosemite..... 1890	Middle eastern California.....	1,126	An immense granite wilderness replete with world-famous spectacles—The Yosemite Valley acknowledged the most beautiful in existence—Many waterfalls of extraordinary height—Great forests, including three groves of giant sequoias—A paradise for trail riders and campers.
General Grant..... 1890	Middle eastern California.....	4	Created to preserve the famous General Grant Tree, more than 30 feet in diameter, and the splendid forest which surrounds it.
Mount Rainier..... 1899	West central Washington.....	325	Largest accessible single peak glacier system—28 glaciers, some of large size—48 square miles of glacier, 50 to 500 feet thick—Wonderful subalpine wild flower fields, surrounded by an extraordinary forest belt.
Crater Lake..... 1902	Southwestern Oregon.....	249	Lake of extraordinary depth and color filling crater of prehistoric Mount Mazama, a volcano which collapsed within itself—Six miles in diameter, brilliantly colored lava sides 1,000 feet high.
Wind Cave..... 1903	South Dakota.....	17	Limestone cavern having many miles of galleries and numerous chambers.
Platt..... 1904	Southern Oklahoma.....	1½	Conserving mineral springs—Serves City of Sulphur as a city park.
Sullys Hill..... 1904	North Dakota.....	1½	Wild life reservation administered by U. S. Biological Survey.
Mesa Verde..... 1906	Southwestern Colorado.....	80	Most notable and best preserved cliff dwellings in the United States—Forested mesas eroded from the Rockies and again eroding into the desert.
Glacier..... 1910	Northwestern Montana.....	1,534	Rugged mountain region of unsurpassed romantic beauty and extraordinary individuality—250 glacier-fed lakes—60 small glaciers—Precipices thousands of feet deep—Product of an overthrust revealing by erosion richly tinted pre-Cambrian strata overlying rocks comparatively recent.
Rocky Mountain..... 1915	North middle Colorado.....	378	The heart of the granite Rockies—Snowy Front Range carrying the continental divide with peaks from 11,000 to 14,255 feet in altitude—Remarkable records of the glacial period.
Hawaii..... 1916	Hawaii.....	245	Three separate areas—Kilauea and Mauna Loa on Hawaii, Haleakala on Maui—Includes the world famous "Lake of Everlasting Fire."
Lassen Volcanic..... 1916	Northern California.....	163	Only active volcano in United States proper—Lassen Peak 10,460 feet—Cinder Cone 6,907 feet—Hot springs—Mud geysers.
Mount McKinley..... 1917	South central Alaska.....	2,645	Encloses the heart of the Great Alaskan Range with Mount McKinley rising 20,300 feet, seen from an altitude of 3,000 feet—Colossal glaciers—Immense herds of caribou—Mountain sheep in large numbers.
Grand Canyon..... 1919	North central Arizona.....	1,009	The greatest example of erosion, and no doubt the spectacle nearest sublimity in all the world—Discloses in its vertical wall strata telling the Story of Creation during hundreds of millions of years.
Acadia..... 1919	Maine coast.....	16	A group of ancient granite mountains on Mount Desert Island remarkable for their beauty, the range of their tree species, and their history.
Zion..... 1919	Southwestern Utah.....	120	"The Rainbow of the Desert." A gorge cut 2,500 feet down through the White Cliff and the Vermilion Cliff of the colorful Plateau Country of Utah. Magnificently carved by erosion—Carries the Story of Creation from the rim of the Grand Canyon up through millions of years.
Hot Springs..... 1921	Middle Arkansas.....	1½	Conserves 46 hot springs with an ancient tradition of curative properties—Park water piped to hotels in adjoining city—19 bathhouses.
Bryce Canyon..... 1928	Southwestern Utah.....	23	Brilliantly colored and richly eroded niche in the Pink Cliff of the Plateau Country—Carries the Story of Creation from Zion National Park still farther up toward modern times.
Grand Teton..... 1929	Northwestern Wyoming.....	150	Ancient granite mountains rising 7,000 feet from Jackson Lake, characteristic of the Rockies before Yellowstone was levelled by volcanic action.

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OBJECTS

1. To conserve nature and win all America to its appreciation and study.
2. To encourage use of the National Parks System for enjoyment of its unsurpassed spiritual and educational value.
3. To protect National Parks against whatever may tend to disturb their continuity of natural conditions or to diminish their effectiveness as supreme expressions of beauty and majesty in nature.
4. To promote use of National Parks for purposes of popular education and scientific investigation.
5. To promote a national recreational policy under which publicly owned lands of the nation shall be equipped for recreational service of the people so far as this is consistent with other requirements.
6. To protect wild birds, animals and plants, and conserve typical areas existing under primitive conditions.
7. To aid specialist organizations, and to interest organizations of many kinds and the people generally, in these objectives.

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